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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 07-51 CORRECTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
212 PM EDT THU OCT 11 2007

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CORRECTED: CHANGE TO TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND
INFORMATION STATEMENT DEFINITIONS FOR PRODUCTS ISSUED BY THE WEST
COAST/ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER: EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 12 2008

CORRECTED TO REPEAT EFFECTIVE DATE OF FEBRUARY 12 2008 IN PARAGRAPH
DISCUSSING TABLE 1.

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12 2008 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...THE DEFINITIONS USED FOR TSUNAMI PRODUCTS ISSUED BY THE WEST
COAST/ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER /WC/ATWC/ WILL BE REVISED TO PROVIDE
BETTER INDICATION OF EXPECTED TSUNAMI IMPACT LEVEL AND TO MORE CLOSELY
ALIGN TSUNAMI PRODUCTS TO OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/
WARNING/WATCH/ADVISORY PRODUCT SUITES.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REVISION IS TO THE TSUNAMI ADVISORY DEFINITION. THE
NEW ADVISORY STATES A TSUNAMI IS EXPECTED THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE
IN OR NEAR THE WATER...BUT NO SIGNIFICANT INUNDATION IS EXPECTED.
CURRENTLY...A TSUNAMI ADVISORY STATES A WATCH OR WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR
ANOTHER PART OF THE OCEAN BASIN...AND IT HAS NO RELATION TO POTENTIAL
DANGER LEVEL.

IN SITUATIONS WHERE A TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR
ANOTHER AREA OF THE OCEAN AND THERE IS NO DANGER WITHIN THE WC/ATWC AREA
OF RESPONSIBILITY...TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED BY
WC/ATWC.

THE REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND INFORMATION STATEMENT
DEFINITIONS ARE LOCATED IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...ADVISORY...WATCH AND INFORMATION
STATEMENT DEFINITIONS...EFFECTIVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12 2008

TSUNAMI WARNING: A TSUNAMI WARNING IS ISSUED WHEN A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI WITH
SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD INUNDATION IS IMMINENT OR EXPECTED. WARNINGS ALERT
THE PUBLIC THAT WIDESPREAD...DANGEROUS COASTAL FLOODING ACCOMPANIED BY
POWERFUL CURRENTS IS POSSIBLE AND MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER
ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE. WARNINGS ALSO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION FOR THE ENTIRE TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE. APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY INCLUDE THE EVACUATION OF LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS AND REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. WARNINGS MAY BE UPDATED...ADJUSTED GEOGRAPHICALLY...DOWNGRADED OR CANCELED. TO PROVIDE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ALERT...INITIAL WARNINGS ARE NORMALLY BASED ONLY ON SEISMIC INFORMATION.

TSUNAMI WATCH: A TSUNAMI WATCH IS ISSUED TO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC OF AN EVENT THAT MAY LATER IMPACT THE WATCH AREA. THE WATCH AREA MAY BE UPGRADED TO A WARNING OR ADVISORY - OR CANCELED - BASED ON UPDATED INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS. THEREFORE...EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION. WATCHES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED BASED ON SEISMIC INFORMATION WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI IS UNDERWAY.

TSUNAMI ADVISORY: A TSUNAMI ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR THE THREAT OF A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI THAT MAY PRODUCE STRONG CURRENTS OR WAVES DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN OR NEAR THE WATER. COASTAL REGIONS HISTORICALLY PRONE TO DAMAGE DUE TO STRONG CURRENTS INDUCED BY TSUNAMIS ARE AT THE GREATEST RISK. THE THREAT MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE...BUT SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD INUNDATION IS NOT EXPECTED FOR AREAS UNDER AN ADVISORY. APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY INCLUDE CLOSING BEACHES...EVACUATING HARBORS AND MARINAS AND REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. ADVISORIES ARE NORMALLY UPDATED TO CONTINUE THE ADVISORY...EXPAND/CONTRACT AFFECTED AREAS...UPGRADE TO A WARNING OR CANCEL THE ADVISORY.

TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT: A TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT IS ISSUED TO INFORM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC THAT AN EARTHQUAKE HAS OCCURRED...OR THAT A TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR ANOTHER SECTION OF THE OCEAN. IN MOST CASES...INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ISSUED TO INDICATE THERE IS NO THREAT OF A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI AND TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY EVACUATIONS BECAUSE THE EARTHQUAKE MAY HAVE BEEN FELT IN COASTAL AREAS. AN INFORMATION STATEMENT MAY...IN APPROPRIATE SITUATIONS...CAUTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTRUCTIVE LOCAL TSUNAMIS. INFORMATION STATEMENTS MAY BE REISSUED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...THOUGH NORMALLY THESE MESSAGES ARE NOT UPDATED. HOWEVER...A WATCH...ADVISORY OR WARNING MAY BE ISSUED FOR THE AREA...IF NECESSARY...AFTER ANALYSIS AND/OR UPDATED INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PRODUCT TYPE LINES AND PRODUCT COMMUNICATIONS IDENTIFIERS REMAIN THE SAME.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT TSUNAMI PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE WC/ATWC CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WCATWC.ARH.NOAA.GOV](http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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